



FMCS

**FEDERAL MEDIATION &
CONCILIATION SERVICE**

SPEAKER'S BIO



LAURA SHEPARD

**COMMISSIONER,
FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICE**

Laura Shepard began her career as a Commissioner in 2005 with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS). Ms. Shepard is involved in the mediation of new and existing collective bargaining agreements for a variety of organizations in the private, public and federal sectors. Ms. Shepard has worked with various groups in manufacturing, transportation, public- and private-sector organizations, health care, education, police and fire, and municipalities. She has been involved in a variety of work stoppages that affected musicians, bus drivers, foundry workers, auto mechanics and teachers. These work stoppages ranged in length from one day to 92 days.

Ms. Shepard has served as a neutral in the resolution of grievance mediations, Equal Employment Opportunity disputes, discharge cases and a variety of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) cases. She has mediated disputes for various private organizations, and public and federal sector agencies. She has been selected to be a mediator coach and she is also an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Counselor for FMCS.

She frequently acts as a trainer or facilitator in the areas of communication, interest-based problem solving, interest-based bargaining, steward/supervisor relationships, labor-management committees, meeting effectiveness and trust building. She has presented trainings for the United Steelworkers (USW), the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), students in the Master's Program at The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business and for the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security in China.

Ms. Shepard was a labor relations specialist for the Ohio Nurses Association from March 1998 to April 2005. She was the chief negotiator for various local nurses' units. She represented bargaining units ranging in size from approximately 2,000 employees to six employees. Further, she administered collective bargaining agreements, handled grievances and arbitrations, and participated on labor-management committees.

Ms. Shepard graduated from The Ohio State University with a B.S. in business administration and a B.A. degree. In addition, she earned her juris doctor degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School, now known as Western Michigan University Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. She has been member of the Central Ohio Labor and Employment Relations Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, and the Columbus Bar Association.